

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner requests any new documentation known to qualify as prior art, and requests a showing of support for language added to any original claims on amendment and any new claims.

I. RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR PRIOR ART

The inventor and the agent handling prosecution (one and the same, the undersigned) is not aware of any new documentation known to qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 and 103 with respect to the invention as defined by the independent and dependent claims, including the claims currently withdrawn. No other persons are involved in the prosecution of the patent application.

II. RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SHOWING OF SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGE ADDED

In response to the restriction requirement mailed September 11, 2006, a generic claim was drafted to include both Species 1 (claims 1-18) and Species 2 (claims 19-31). Claim 32 is the new generic claim upon which all of the presently pending and withdrawn claims depend from.

No substantive language was added to the original claims in the amendment dated October 2, 2006. New claim 32 is composed almost entirely of language removed from dependent claims 1 and 19. As such, the amendment moved common elements from previously independent claims 1 and 19 into a new independent claim 32 and then removed this language from claims 1 and 19 and made them dependent on new claim 32.

More specifically, original claims 1 and 19 refer to an expansion input circuit and an expansion output circuit respectively while new claim 32 refers to an expansion circuit. Similarly, original claims 1 and 19 refer to an internal strobe signal and an internal enable signal respectively, while new claim 32 refers to an internal signal. Thus new claim 32 removes qualifying terms in two previously separate independent claims and re-introduces these limitations in two dependent claims.

Additionally, it should be pointed out that much of the discussion in the specification does not relate specifically to expansion input circuits or expansion output circuits, but relates more generally to the expansion I/O circuits that can generate an internal strobe and/or enable signal. See for example the application at paragraphs 0005, 0022 - 0023, 0029 - 0056 and Figures 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A and 5B.

III. ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Assuming that the present response puts the present application in condition for allowance of claims 1 - 18 and 32, the applicant requests that dependent claims 19-31, currently withdrawn, are also allowed as they are all dependent, directly or indirectly, on allowed claim 32.

Respectfully submitted,

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